

CLAIMS

1. A golf tee (10), characterised by a shaft (12) adapted for insertion into a surface of ground, and a pivotable support portion (16) mounted atop an upper end (18) of the shaft (12), the pivotable support portion (16) having a plurality of upright prong members (40) mounted thereupon, the prong members (40) being arranged to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members (40) such that the golf ball is positioned substantially above the upright prong members (40) and the pivotable support portion (16) is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft (12) so as to assist in balancing the golf ball atop the prong members (40).
- 15 2. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that the pivotable support portion (16) has an upper portion (14) and a lower portion (26), wherein the upper portion (14) includes a pivotable portion (36).
- 20 3. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 2, characterised in that the pivotable portion (36) is pivotably mounted adjacent the upper end (18) of the shaft (12) by a pivotable connection means (32).
- 25 4. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 3, characterised in that the pivotable connection means (32) is a ball and socket assembly.
5. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any one of claims 2 to 4, characterised in that the lower portion (26) of the pivotable support portion (16) is provided with a socket (34), wherein the pivotable portion (36) is complementary in configuration to

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- 5 the socket (34), the pivotable portion (36) of the upper portion (14) being adapted to be engagingly received by the socket (34).
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6. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that the pivotable support portion (16) is threadingly engaged with the upper end (18) of the shaft (12).
- 15 7. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the shaft (12) is provided with a stopper portion (24) disposed adjacent to the upper end (18) of the shaft (12).
- 20 8. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 7, characterised in that the stopper portion (24) is provided with a downwardly sloping surface (30), the downwardly sloping surface (30) being arranged, in use, to face towards a striking surface of a golf club.
- 25 9. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 8, characterised in that the downwardly sloping surface (30) has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.
10. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 8 or 9, characterised in that the stopper portion (24) is provided with a guidance marker (28), wherein the guidance marker (28) is disposed diametrically opposite the downwardly sloping surface (30).
11. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any of claims 7 to 10, characterised in that the stopper portion (24) is provided with a plurality of leg portions extending downwardly from a lower surface thereof.

5        12. A golf tee (110), the golf tee (110) characterised by a base portion (13) having  
at least one cavity and at least one shaft (12) with a pivotable support portion (16)  
arranged atop the shaft (12), the pivotable support portion (16) having a plurality of  
prong members (40) mounted thereupon, the shaft (12) being pivotable relative to the  
base portion (13) between a first position in which the shaft (12) and prong members  
10      (40) are substantially upright and the prong members (40) are arranged to support a  
golf ball placed atop the prong members (40) such that the golf ball is positioned  
substantially above the upright prong members (40) and the pivotable support portion  
(16) is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft (12) so as to assist in  
balancing the golf ball atop the upright prong members (40); and a second position in  
15      which the shaft (12), support portion and prong members (40) are disposed  
substantially within the cavity (15).

13. A golf tee (110) in accordance with claim 12, characterised in that each  
pivotable support portion (16) has three prong members (40) mounted thereupon.

20        14. A golf tee (110) in accordance with claim 13, characterised in that each prong  
member (40) has a pointed portion (42) at an upper end thereof.

15        15. A golf tee (110) in accordance with claim 14, characterised in that each  
25      pointed portion (42) is substantially conical.

16. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims,  
characterised in that the prong members (40) are equidistantly and equiangularly  
arranged upon the pivotable support portion (16), the prong members (40) forming a

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- 5 support surface to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members (40), whilst  
maintaining minimal contact between a surface of the golf ball and prong members  
(40).
17. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any of the preceding claims, characterised  
10 in that a longitudinal length of the plurality of prong members (40) on a single  
pivotable support portion (16) is substantially the same.
18. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims,  
characterised in that the longitudinal length of the prong members (40) is variable and  
15 selected to suit a particular intended golf stroke.
19. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any one of claims 12 to 18, characterised in  
that the base portion (13) comprises a first portion (60) having a substantially  
horizontal upper surface (64) and a second portion (62) having a downwardly sloping  
20 surface (66), the downwardly sloping surface (66) being arranged, in use, to face  
towards a striking surface of a golf club.
20. A golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 19, characterised in that the  
downwardly sloping surface (66) has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.
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21. A golf tee (10) in accordance with any one of claims 12 to 20, characterised in  
that the base portion (13) has three shafts (12) pivotably mounted thereupon.